

Region 2 News

Hello to all in Region 2 -

As we move through the 2014-2015 school year, there are so many wonderful and exciting things happening in so many classrooms in your buildings!

In speaking with many of you, I truly hope that my message is always clear – my job is to support you. If there are questions that you have, resources that you need, answers you are looking for...please contact me! I am able to seek out and provide information about PD opportunities on various topics that you are looking for as well.

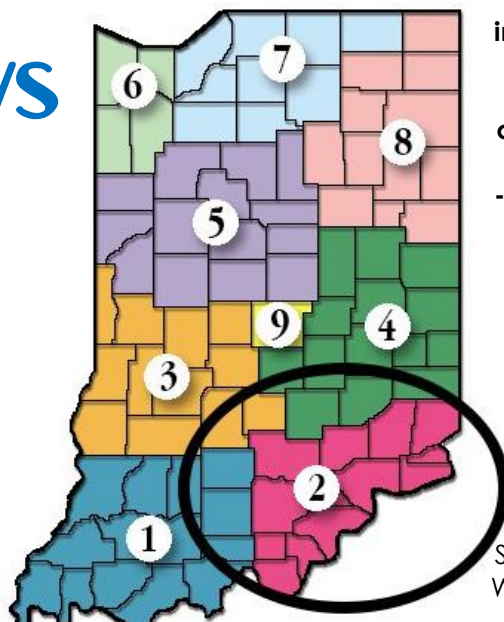
In most cases, I receive updates and information about assessments and accountability as you do. I will continue to send out important information via email.

Please feel free to contact me via phone, text or email.

Rebecca

rreeves@doe.in.gov

317.518.8834



Region 2
includes all
schools in
the 12 SE
counties of
Indiana

Clark
Dearborn
Floyd
Harrison
Jackson
Jefferson
Jennings
Ohio
Ripley
Scott
Switzerland
Washington

About...FACE

The IDOE Family and Community Engagement initiative was rolled out in January 2015. The vision of the FACE initiative is to assist the Division of School Improvement with an intentional approach to family and community engagement. Our mission is to serve all Indiana schools, including Focus and Priority Schools, with improving their family and community engagement initiatives. In addition to identifying and designating applicable schools as "Family Friendly," we will create and share a statewide framework for Family and Community Engagement.

If you have any questions or in need of additional support in the area of Family and Community Engagement, please contact:

Leroy Robinson
Director of Family and Community Engagement
Phone: 317-234-5663

- More About FACE -

You may be familiar with the [Senate Enrolled Act 422](#). As educators, we are always striving to find additional ways to involve our parents and community in the challenging and rewarding work that we do. With their support, we are able to accomplish so much. The DOE has created some [helpful surveys and assessment tools](#) that you may find useful.

See the last pages of this newsletter for more FACE information.



The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) is the highest honors bestowed by the United States government specifically for K-12 mathematics and science teaching.

Anyone--principals, teachers, parents, students, or members of the general public--may nominate exceptional mathematics or science (including computer science) teachers who are currently teaching grades 7-12 for the 2014-2015 award year. Teachers may also apply directly at www.paemst.org.

The Nomination Deadline is April 1, 2015. This date gives the nominated teacher time to prepare an application prior to the application deadline. The Application Deadline is May 1, 2015, for secondary school teachers (grades 7-12). Elementary school teachers (grades K-6) are eligible to apply during the 2015-2016 program year.

Dare I say that we are almost through winter and it hasn't been too bad? Just in case...



Click [here](#) for details on the virtual options for inclement weather school closings!



Indiana Association for Child Care Resource and Referral (IACCRR) announces **The Child Care Search** button, a **free** service that directs users to www.childcareindiana.org and allows your school to partner with the Indiana Association for Child Care Resource and Referral (IACCRR) and local Child Care Resource and Referral agencies to help families find high quality child care and out-of-school time options. **Adding the Child Care Search button to your school website is easy and FREE!** For more information, visit www.iaccrr.org and click on 'Link to Us'. For questions, contact the Indiana Association for Child Care Resource and Referral at datahelp@iaccrr.org.

For your Spring 2015 educational needs, the Falls of the Ohio State Park Naturalists will be available to come to your classroom to present 45 minute educational programs for your students.

They offer 5 program options:

Fossil Lab : 3rd grade & above

Fossil Lab : Primary Grade Level (K-2)

Minerals and Our World : 3rd grade & above

Archaeology Lab : 3rd grade & above

The Corps of Discovery and the Natural World : 2nd grade & above



For more information or to make a reservation
please call (812) 280-9970
or check the website:
www.fallsoftheohio.org

Office of Assessment News

The Assessment Department has been sending out regular communication about updates and changes for ECAs, ISTEP+ and IREAD 3. Please be sure to check with your District Assessment Coordinator (Corporation Test Coordinator) regularly to be sure that you are receiving the most updated information as quickly as possible. If you are not receiving these emails, please contact me and I will send them out to you as they come.

Important information regarding Acuity....

Flexibility regarding the administration of Acuity Readiness 3 is being provided so that schools may use the tool instructionally. Please see below for details.

- **Purpose of Acuity Readiness 3**
 - Provide access to rigorous items aligned to college- and career-ready Indiana Academic Standards
 - Enable teachers to monitor student progress in terms of learning the new standards and to identify students in need of intervention
- **Administration Flexibility**
 - May use items instructionally, rather than as a formative “test”
 - May print items and use as instructional activities
 - Any school staff member may “administer” or discuss items with students
 - Example: Middle school Math teacher may want to use math items
- **Ethical Practices and Test Security**
 - Keep documents in the classroom; do not send the materials home
 - Make it clear to students that these activities are for *practice*, and on the actual test, students will need to work on their own to “show what they know”

Important Notes

- CTB Acuity staff are creating a “guide” to assist Acuity users with this flexibility. Information regarding the guide will be disseminated to Acuity users by CTB.
- Schools choosing not to administer the Algebra I ECA to students in grade 8 and below are welcome to substitute the Acuity Readiness 3 assessment for the Algebra I Predictive C assessment (as long as the site signed-up to use the Acuity Readiness assessments).



The Microsoft IT Academy pilot is a partnership between the two departments and Microsoft to help Indiana residents, both secondary students and adults, obtain the basic computer and productivity skills needed for many types of careers. 89 schools are currently part of the pilot, with 61 Work One Centers to be added later this year. This pilot allows schools and Work One Centers to take place in the IT Academy at no cost to the schools. Among other benefits, the Academy makes 30 different certifications available to attendees, gives schools “lab licenses” for Office 2010 or 2013 and provides professional development for Hoosier educators.

In the coming weeks DWD will be integrating the Microsoft IT Academy courses throughout Indiana's network of WorkOne centers. Further details regarding Microsoft IT Academy offerings at WorkOne locations will be available in the near future. For more information about WorkOne locations and programs, visit www.workoneworks.com.

To Share with Teachers...

If you are a master teacher, new teacher, or an educator who is constantly working to develop your strengths and refresh your toolbox, reviewing the 49 techniques in Doug Lemov's book **Teach Like a Champion**, is a great place to begin.

Here is a quick review of two techniques to raise classroom expectations and rigor in the classroom.

Technique 1: No Opt Out

Here are four different sequences for no opt out:

- Teacher provides the answer; student not allowed to opt-out repeats the answer.
- Student provides the answer; student not allowed to opt-out answers.
- Teacher provides a cue; student not allowed to opt-out uses it to find the answer.
- Student provides a cue; student not allowed to opt-out uses it to find the answer.

Technique 3: Stretch It

Follow the right answer with follow-up questions to extend knowledge and apply skills in new ways.

Here are 6 ways to have your student stretch it:

- **Explain how or why**
How did you get that? Can you tell me why?
- **Answer in a different way**
Is there another way to solve it? Can you find another example?
- **Answer with a better word**
Can you use a better word to describe that? How could you answer that with more detail?
- **Provide evidence**
What does that mean? Can you prove that somewhere in the text?
- **Integrate a related skill**
Can you give me a synonym to that word? What is the author inferring there?
- **Apply the same skill in a new way**
Do you remember the problem in the story? How was the problem solved? How will you develop the plot in your writing?

To Share with Parents...

I-STEP+...What to Expect

New Standards Mean New Assessments

This Spring 2015, the I-STEP+ assessment will be different than the past, as it will measure standards that are more challenging and require higher levels of problem solving, writing, and critical thinking. These types of skills are particularly important in pre-paring students for college and/or careers.

New Item Types

Students will be able to use computer tools to answer new types of items. Teachers are providing practice with these technology enhanced questions. Find them here: <http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/experience-college-and-career-ready-assessment>

Because Standards are More Rigorous, More Support May be Needed at Home

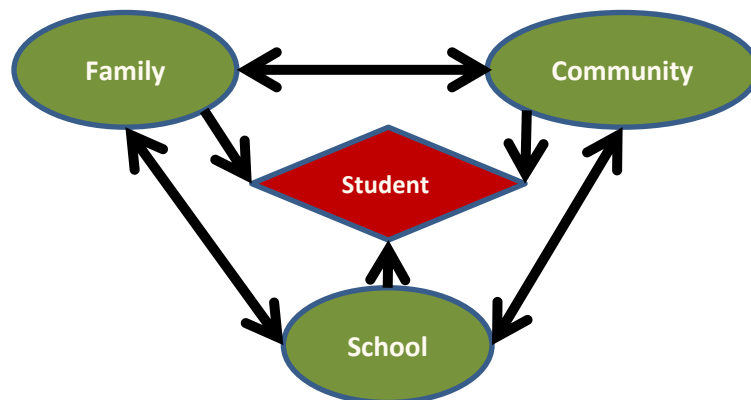
Stay in contact with your child's teachers. Ask how you can support your child and learn more about the new curriculum to help with the transition.

One Last Thing...

Being in the business of educating children we are all first to recognize the importance of parent involvement. We believe that if parents are involved this will have a positive academic and behavioral impact which will lead to success. Parent involvement can easily be taken for granted that if they are involved they are engaged at a level that will positively impact the academic achievement levels of the child. We also believe the same when we are able to get community businesses and partners invested in the education we provide the children in our buildings.

As a brief reminder to keep ALL of you engaged on this the valuable content of this article you may wonder how the Turnaround Principles apply to your school. Turnaround Principles are not only used as a strategic system to support schools that maybe struggling but more importantly the eight principles are indicators for high performing schools. It is the goal of the Outreach Division of the Indiana Department of Education to promote these Turnaround Principles and to make these known by all schools for this reason.

The foundational aspect of [Turnaround Principle 8](#) is that the school, family, and community are engaged in coordination at a level that will assist in removing all educational barriers for all students. It is important to leverage the power of families, community members, community organizations, and the school as active partners to support the student and remove all barriers to help accelerate the academic and personal growth of all students.



When discussing MEANINGFUL family engagement it is important to note that this is more than having fun evenings of activities that parents and students participate in together. Those are great events that schools should be encouraged to have in building a positive welcoming climate. However, these events tend to allow parents and families to be passively engaged. To engage families is to keep them informed about the academic progress of their student and how this is in comparison to expected learning goals or targets for that grade level. Parents need to know where their student is achieving in relation to the goal or expected outcome. This practice then establishes the high expectation for all students. In this process, parents being informed need to know that they are an active participant in the instructional decisions of their student. Parents in this process can also be informed how they can help their student in progressing towards the learning goals or student outcomes. A few of the most traditional ways parents are informed of student progress are through regularly scheduled conferences, progress reports, and report cards. Schools are encouraged to find creative ways to engage families and find every opportunity to discuss with them their student and learning goals. When initiating this contact with parents it is important to make this a positive impact that the education of the child is a team effort. It is all too easy to take this opportunity to inform the parent what they are not doing which will negatively impact parental engagement and support.

Another component of family engagement is to encourage and actively recruit families to provide input on school decisions. Families should be provided opportunities to garner input from families through PTOs, Parent Councils, School Leadership Councils, or Town halls. School leaders can use this valuable feedback to make decisions accordingly.

Lastly when discussing family engagement, it is important to find multiple and various ways to keep parents informed. With the increase of technology in schools, student information systems have become very popular. It is important not to neglect that the school community needs to provide support to families in how to access this very valuable real-time information. This may not only be how to access their student's personal data but the school community may also need to provide a way or means for parents to have access to technology to access the student information system.

Community engagement is the next and final component of this principle. It is important for schools to cultivate and build relationships with community partners and organizations that can provide support in identified needs of families and students. There are many groups that have services to offer and are willing to host, fund and provide them, but they do not know how to help or have not been engaged. Many times, community organizations are willing to establish and coordinate the service they provide with the school building. We know as educators that all students can achieve to meet high expectations when their emotional, behavioral, physical, and academic needs are met. These critical community partnerships will build a network of services that can be provided to families and students that schools cannot otherwise provide alone with the goal of removing or reducing barriers to the academic achievement and personal growth of students.

As outlined, this article has covered the surface of family and community engagement based on Turnaround Principle 8. There are many resources available on the [Outreach Website](#) to support schools that have needs in this area. Schools that feel they have strong Family and Community Engagement programs in place are encouraged to explore the possibility of applying for the designation of being a Family Friendly Schools program this coming in fall of 2015. The information, application, and materials can be found at this [location](#).

– By Doug Thieme, Outreach Coordinator, Region 8.

To keep you thinking...



**A person
who feels
appreciated
will always
do more
than what is
expected.**